

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-01
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PA-01 USIA-06 SP-02 /068 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MKBERRY:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. COLLUMS
NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER

-----051907 240149Z /72

R 230253Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JULY 22

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR JULY 22, 1977. FYI
ONLY, THE OFFICER DURING THE BRIEFING TODAY WAS JOHN
TRATTNER.

Q. HAS ANY DECISION BEEN MADE ON A NUMBER OF ISRAELI
REQUESTS TO USE CERTAIN AID MONEY FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES--OR
TO BE ABLE TO CO-PRODUCE CERTAIN AIRCRAFT, OR TO BUY
CERTAIN HYDROFOIL BOATS?

A. AS PART OF OUR CONTINUING MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP
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WITH ISRAEL, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED TO APPROVE A
NUMBER OF MILITARY ITEMS FOR ISRAEL. THE ITEMS APPROVED
ARE HELICOPTERS, HYDROFOIL PATROL CRAFT, AND AMMUNITION
OF A ROUTINE NATURE. THE U.S. HAS ALSO DECIDED TO APPROVE
ISRAEL'S REQUEST FOR DOLS 107 MILLION IN U.S. FINANCING
UNDER FMS PROCEDURES, TO HELP ISRAEL SUPPORT PRODUCTION OF
ITS LOCALLY MANUFACTURED CHARIOT TANK.

Q. IS THE DOLS 107 MILLION FROM MONEY THAT HAS BEEN
PREVIOUSLY ALLOCATED?

A. I DON'T SPECIFICALLY KNOW THAT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE THE TOTAL AMOUNT FOR THE WHOLE PACKAGE?

A. LET ME SAY TOO THAT WE DON'T MAKE PUBLIC THE DETAILS
OF THESE DECISIONS, SO I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO
TELL YOU HOW MANY OF WHAT KINDS AND SO FORTH. THEY ARE
BEING COMMUNICATED TO CONGRESS IN THE USUAL WAY, WHICH
IS LETTERS OF OFFER NOTIFICATION.

HOWEVER, I CAN SAY THAT THE GENERAL MAGNITUDE OF THE

PROPOSED TRANSACTION IS ABOUT DOLS 250 MILLION.

Q. AND NO DECISION ON THE F-16?

A. AND THAT DECISION -- THE ISRAELI REQUEST FOR THE F-16 AIRCRAFT AND ITD CO-PRODUCTION, REMAIN UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION -- AS DO A NUMBER OF OTHER ITEMS IN THE CONTINUING MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHEN A DECISION MIGHT BE MADE ON THAT? IS IT COMING UP IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THAT.

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Q. THE THINGS THAT WERE APPROVED -- WERE THEY REQUESTED DURING MR. BEGIN'S VISIT, OR BEFORE? OR IS THERE A MIXTURE OF MATERIALS?

A. I DON'T SPECIFICALLY KNOW. BUT LET ME JUST POINT OUT THAT WE HAVE, AS I JUST SAID, A CONTINUING SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ISRAELIS -- CONTINUING REQUESTS AND CONTINUING DECISIONS -- AND I JUST CAN'T GET INTO THE MATTER OF WHEN THESE DECISIONS WERE MADE OR WHEN THE REQUESTS WERE PUT TO US.

Q. WELL WOULD YOU WANT TO SAY, THEN -- OR ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY THAT THERE ARE NO POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS -- THAT THESE DEALS HAVE NO BEARING ON THE MOMENTUM OR LACK OF MOMENTUM TOWARD THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE?

THEY WERE MADE APART FROM BEGIN'S VISIT?

A. I WOULD NOT TIE THEM TOGETHER.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER REPORTS ON THE FIGHTING YESTERDAY BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA?

A. I DON'T.

I AM NOT GOING TO BE IN A POSITION OF GIVING SITUATION REPORTS ON THE REPORTED MILITARY ACTIVITIES. I DON'T HAVE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION THAN WHAT HAS BEEN COMING OVER THROUGH THE PRESS.

Q. AND DOES THE UNITED STATES HAVE INDEPENDENT INFORMATION THAT FIGHTING, IN FACT, DID TAKE PLACE?

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A. I BELIEVE WE DO, YES.

Q. BACK ON THE ARMS SUPPLIES: HAS THE DECISION BEEN REACHED TO SEND A LETTER OF OFFER TO THE CONGRESS ON THE F-15'S TO SAUDI ARABIA?

A. NO. I THINK A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO I SAID WE HAD NOT REACHED A DECISION AS TO WHEN A PROPOSAL MIGHT BE MADE -- AND I THINK THAT'S STILL WHERE IT IS.

Q. WHY ARE THE OTHERS STILL ONLY UNDER "ACTIVE CONSIDERATION?" WHAT IS THE BASIS FOR NOT GOING THROUGH WITH THEM?

A. WELL BECAUSE THEY ARE STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION. I MEAN, THERE IS NO "GO AHEAD" BECAUSE THERE'S NO GO AHEAD.

Q. WELL I MEAN, YOU KNOW IF YOU WANT TO -- WHAT I AM SAYING IS: IS IT BECAUSE OF THE THREE-FOLD TEST ANNOUNCED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ARMS SHIPMENTS TO THE MIDDLE EAST -- ARE THEY BEING WITHHELD FOR SECURITY REASONS?

A. I CANNOT REALLY GIVE YOU AN INTELLIGENT READOUT ON WHY THEY ARE STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE ONES THAT WENT THROUGH? ARE YOU CONVINCED THESE WON'T TIP THE BALANCE?

A. I THINK THAT ALL OF THESE THINGS WERE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION, QUITE CERTAINLY.

Q. WHAT IS UNDER CONSIDERATION? IS IT THE ISRAELI REQUEST FOR COPRODUCTION OF THE F16 OR THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO SELL THE F-16?

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A. WELL, LET ME REPEAT WHAT I THINK THE WHITE HOUSE SAID AND THE SECRETARY I THINK SAID SOME TIME AGO. THAT THE

UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED TO SUPPLY F-16'S TO ISRAEL. IT IS A COMMITMENT TAKEN FROM THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. WHAT WE ARE CONSIDERING ARE NUMBERS, DELIVERY TIMES AND THE COPRODUCTION REQUEST AT ISSUE.

Q. YOU ARE NOT COMMITTED TO COPRODUCTION?

A. I DON'T THINK WE ARE COMMITTED TO COPRODUCTION, NO.

Q. HOW MANY HAVE THEY REQUESTED, CAN YOU TELL US THAT?

A. NO, I CAN'T. I SAID WE CAN'T GET INTO THE DETAILS OF THEIR REQUESTS OR OUR DECISIONS.

Q. CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE THINKING BEHIND THE DOLS 107 MILLION FINANCING OF THE CHARIOT TANKERS? ISN'T THIS AN UNUSUAL FORM OF AID?

A. I CAN'T GIVE YOU THE DETAILS OF THE TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS, THE WHEN OF THE DECISION, BUT I CAN SAY THAT ALL OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED WERE CAREFULLY STUDIED INSIDE THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE CONCLUSION WAS THAT ANSWERING THE ISRAELI REQUEST -- AND THIS IS ON THE CHARIOT TANKS -- WOULD BE THE BEST WAY TO PROCEED IN LINE WITH WHAT WE HAVE OFTEN SAID ABOUT OUR COMMITMENT TO THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL.

Q. THE TANK ITSELF WILL BE PRODUCED ENTIRELY IN ISRAEL, OR IS THERE SOME COPRODUCTION INVOLVED?

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A. NO, IT IS NOT COPRODUCTION.

Q. WELL, COMPONENTS. THERE IS NO AMERICAN PRODUCTION, JOINT PRODUCTION, OR COPRODUCTION.

A. THE APPLICATION OF OUR FINANCING FROM OUR MILITARY AID PROGRAM IS NOT COPRODUCTION. IT IS SIMPLY FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THEIR DEFENSE PRODUCTION.

Q. ACCORDING TO AN OLD STORY HERE, ISRAEL WAS ALSO ASKING FOR COMPONENTS FOR THE F15'S. IS THAT STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION, BESIDES COPRODUCING THE F-16'S?

A. I THINK THERE ARE A NUMBER OF THINGS UNDER CONSIDERATION. I WOULD HAVE TO, AGAIN, CHECK THAT ONE SPECIFICALLY.

Q. ON THE HYDROFOIL, IS THAT A COPRODUCTION ITEM?

A. YES. I AM TOLD THAT THAT TRANSACTION WILL INVOLVE A MIXTURE OF SOME PURCHASES HERE, SOME COPRODUCTION, AND I DON'T HAVE A THING ON THAT BEYOND WHAT I HAVE JUST SAID.

Q. COULD YOU PUT A DOLLAR FIGURE ON THAT?

A. NO, I CAN'T BREAK IT DOWN FOR YOU.

Q. ISN'T THE TANK ALSO MADE UP OF MAJOR AMERICAN COMPONENTS, LIKE THE ENGINE, TRANSMISSION?

A. I DON'T KNOW. I AM NOT AN EXPERT ON IT, AS YOU MAY HAVE DEVINED BY NOW.

Q. THE HELICOPTERS ARE WHAT? KOVERS?

A. I DON'T KNOW.

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Q. AND IS THAT A COPRODUCTION?

A. NO.

Q. HOW MANY HELICOPTERS ARE THEY GOING TO -- ?

A. I SAID I CAN'T GET INTO DETAILS OF QUANTITY.

Q. WHY TYPE OF HELICOPTERS?

A. I SAID I CAN'T ANSWER. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. WHAT IS THE EXACT ITINERARY OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. I DON'T HAVE IT FOR YOU. ON THE SECRETARY'S TRIP THE PRESIDENT SAID, AND I CAN REPEAT, IT WILL BE BEGINNING AUGUST 1ST. I DON'T HAVE A RETURN DATE. BUT, I WOULD NOTE THAT THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER SAID 8 AUGUST.

ON BACKGROUND, IF IT HELPS YOU AT ALL, I CAN SAY THAT THE COUNTRIES VISITED WOULD BE THOSE VISITED IN FEBRUARY.

Q. INCLUDING LEBANON?

A. YES.

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION TAKEN AT THE JULY 22 PRESS BRIEFING:

Q. UNDER THE UNITED STATES FINANCING ARRANGEMENT
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FOR PRODUCTION OF THE CHARIOT TANK, WILL ISRAEL BE ABLE
TO EXPORT THAT TANK TO THIRD COUNTRIES?

A. --ALL THE DETAILS SURROUNDING THIS ARRANGEMENT ARE
STILL BEING WORKED OUT, SO NO ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION IS
AVAILABLE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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